

Claims

- [c1] 1. In a knotting device including a rotatable knotter operable to twist-knot a pair of adjacent wire sections, and a cover located adjacent said knotter for maintaining the wire sections within the knotter during feeding and knotting operations, the improvement which comprises a mount for said cover permitting the cover to be pivoted away from said knotter to a knotter access position remote from said wire-maintaining position and through a pivot arc of at least about 90°.
- [c2] 2. The device of claim 1, said arc being greater than about 120°.
- [c3] 3. The device of claim 1, said knotter comprising a slotted, rotatable pinion adapted to receive within the slot thereof said adjacent wire sections.
- [c4] 4. The device of claim 1, including a spring operably coupled with said cover for biasing the cover up to said wire-maintaining position thereof.
- [c5] 5. The device of claim 4, said spring also operable to bias the cover to said knotter access position upon pivoting of the cover to the knotter access position.

- [c6] 6.The device of claim 5, said spring secured to said cover and shiftable over center with the cover.
- [c7] 7.The device of claim 1, said mount comprising a leg secured to said cover and pivotal about an axis remote from said cover and generally parallel thereto.
- [c8] 8.The device of claim 1, said knotter rotatably mounted on an elongated support body, said body being selectively rotatable when said cover is in said knotter access position to a non-operative position permitting ready replacement or repair of the knotter.
- [c9] 9.The device of claim 8, including an upright frame member proximal to said knotter, said support body being releasably secured to said frame member and pivotal relative thereto to move the support body and knotter to said non-operative position.
- [c10] 10.The device of claim 1, said cover being manually shiftable from said wire-maintaining position to said knotter access position.
- [c11] 11.In a knotting device including a knotting assembly having a gripper for selectively gripping one of two adjacent wire sections, a rotatable knotter operable to twist-knot the two adjacent wire sections, a cutting element

for cutting of the other of said adjacent wire sections after twist-knotting of the sections and a shiftable cover located adjacent said knotter for maintaining the wire sections within the knotter during feeding said twist-knotting and thereafter movable to a wire-clearing position permitting passage of the twist-knotted wire sections from the knotter, the improvement which comprises an operator assembly for timed operation of said gripper, knotter, cutting element and cover, and a single drive assembly coupled with said operator assembly for effecting said timed operation.

[c12] 12.The device of claim 11, said drive assembly comprising a piston and cylinder assembly including a reciprocal piston rod operably connected with said operator assembly.

[c13] 13.The device of claim 11, said operator assembly including a pivotal shaft assembly carrying respective operator bodies for said gripper, knotter, cutting element and cover.

[c14] 14.The device of claim 13, said cover attached to a mount for pivotal movement of the cover between said wire-maintaining position and said wire-clearing position, including a spring operably coupled with said cover mount for biasing the cover to said wire-maintaining

position thereof, said cover operator body configured to engage said cover mount to move the cover from said wire-maintaining position to said wire-clearing position.

[c15] 15.The device of claim 14, said cover mount permitting selective pivoting of the cover from said wire-maintaining position to a remote knotter access position and through an arc of at least about 90°.

[c16] 16.The device of claim 15, said spring acting to maintain said cover in said knotter access position.

[c17] 17.The device of claim 15, said knotter rotatably mounted on an elongated support body, said body being selectively rotatable when said cover is in said knotter access position to a non-operative position permitting ready replacement or repair of the knotter.

[c18] 18.The device of claim 17, including an upright frame member proximal to said knotter, said support body being releasably secured to said frame member and pivotal relative thereto to move the support body and knotter to said non-operative position.

[c19] 19.In a knotting device including a rotatable knotter operable in one position thereof to twist-knot a pair of adjacent wire sections, and a cover located adjacent said knotter for maintaining the wire sections within the

knotter during feeding and knotting, the improvement which comprises a mount for said knotter permitting the knotter to be pivoted from said one position to an access position allowing servicing of the knotter.

- [c20] 20.The device of claim 19, said knotter comprising a slotted, rotatable pinion adapted to receive within the slot thereof said adjacent wire sections.
- [c21] 21.The device of claim 19, said knotter mount comprising an elongated support body, said body being selectively rotatable to said access position.
- [c22] 22.The device of claim 21, including an upright frame member proximal to said knotter, said support body being releasably secured to said frame member and pivotal relative thereto to move the support body and knotter to said access position.
- [c23] 23.The device of claim 22, including a threadable connector securing said support body to said frame member.